

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
ELLIOTT COUNTY
CLERK**

**For The Year Ended
December 31, 2010**



**CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
www.auditor.ky.gov**

**209 ST. CLAIR STREET
FRANKFORT, KY 40601-1817
TELEPHONE (502) 564-5841
FACSIMILE (502) 564-2912**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE
ELLIOTT COUNTY CLERK

For The Year Ended
December 31, 2010

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the Elliott County Clerk's audit for the year ended December 31, 2010. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement presents fairly in all material respects, the revenues, expenditures, and excess fees in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting.

Financial Condition:

Excess fees decreased by \$2,710 from the prior year, resulting in excess fees of \$57,368 as of December 31, 2010. Revenues increased by \$140,234 from the prior year and expenditures increased by \$142,944.

Report Comment:

2010-01 The County Clerk's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

Deposits:

The County Clerk's deposits were insured and collateralized by bank securities.

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CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Georgia Ison, Elliott County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Shelia Blevins, Elliott County Clerk
Members of the Elliott County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the accompanying statement of revenues, expenditures, and excess fees - regulatory basis of the County Clerk of Elliott County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2010. This financial statement is the responsibility of the County Clerk. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for County Fee Officials issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the County Clerk's office prepares the financial statement on a regulatory basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the revenues, expenditures, and excess fees of the County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2010, in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated August 24, 2011 on our consideration of the Elliott County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.



The Honorable Georgia Ison, Elliott County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Shelia Blevins, Elliott County Clerk
Members of the Elliott County Fiscal Court

Based on the results of our audit, we have presented the accompanying comment and recommendation, included herein, which discusses the following report comment:

2010-01 The County Clerk's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the County Clerk and Fiscal Court of Elliott County, Kentucky, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Crit Luallen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Crit Luallen
Auditor of Public Accounts

August 24, 2011

ELLIOTT COUNTY
SHELIA BLEVINS, COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2010

Revenues

| | | | |
|--|----|---------|---------|
| State Grants | \$ | 19,750 | |
| Revenue Supplement | | | 61,845 |
| State Fees For Services | | | 2,236 |
| Fiscal Court | | | 8,679 |
| Licenses and Taxes: | | | |
| Motor Vehicle- | | | |
| Licenses and Transfers | \$ | 164,232 | |
| Usage Tax | | 202,127 | |
| Tangible Personal Property Tax | | 360,040 | |
| Other- | | | |
| Marriage Licenses | | 1,313 | |
| Deed Transfer Tax | | 3,071 | |
| Delinquent Tax | | 82,841 | |
| | | | 813,624 |
| Fees Collected for Services: | | | |
| Recordings- | | | |
| Deeds, Easements, and Contracts | | 4,579 | |
| Real Estate Mortgages | | 5,348 | |
| Chattel Mortgages and Financing Statements | | 14,307 | |
| Powers of Attorney | | 103 | |
| Affordable Housing Trust | | 5,113 | |
| All Other Recordings | | 9,256 | |
| Charges for Other Services- | | | |
| Candidate Filing Fees | | 1,340 | |
| Copywork | | 730 | |
| | | | 40,776 |
| Other: | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | | 682 |
| Interest Earned | | | 103 |
| | | | |
| Total Revenues | | | 947,695 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

ELLIOTT COUNTY
 SHELIA BLEVINS, COUNTY CLERK
 STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2010
 (Continued)

Expenditures

Payments to State:

Motor Vehicle-

Licenses and Transfers \$ 114,800

Usage Tax 197,077

Tangible Personal Property Tax 132,353

Licenses, Taxes, and Fees-

Delinquent Tax 8,045

Legal Process Tax 4,558

Affordable Housing Trust 4,770 \$ 461,603

Payments to Fiscal Court:

Tangible Personal Property Tax 44,931

Delinquent Tax 7,960

Deed Transfer Tax 2,079

Tax Bill Preparation 1,324 56,294

Payments to Other Districts:

Tangible Personal Property Tax 168,302

Delinquent Tax 43,040 211,342

Payments to Sheriff 7,430

Payments to County Attorney 8,596

Operating Expenditures:

Personnel Services-

Deputies' Salaries 26,000

Part-Time Salaries 12,892

Materials and Supplies-

Office Supplies 6,249

Other Charges-

Conventions and Travel 1,201

Dues 810

Postage 1,870

Library and Archives Grant 19,750

Miscellaneous 4,740 73,512

Total Expenditures \$ 818,777

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

ELLIOTT COUNTY
 SHELIA BLEVINS, COUNTY CLERK
 STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2010
 (Continued)

| | | | |
|---|----|------------|-----------------|
| Net Revenues | | \$ | 128,918 |
| Less: Statutory Maximum | | | <u>67,044</u> |
| Excess Fees | | | 61,874 |
| Less: Expense Allowance | \$ | 3,600 | |
| Training Incentive Benefit | | <u>906</u> | <u>4,506</u> |
| Excess Fees Due County for 2010 | | | 57,368 |
| Payment to Fiscal Court - February 10, 2011 | | | <u>57,368</u> |
| Balance Due Fiscal Court at Completion of Audit | | \$ | <u><u>0</u></u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

ELLIOTT COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 2010

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

A fee official uses a fund to report on the results of operations. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

A fee official uses a fund for fees to account for activities for which the government desires periodic determination of the excess of revenues over expenditures to facilitate management control, accountability, and compliance with laws.

B. Basis of Accounting

KRS 64.820 directs the fiscal court to collect any amount, including excess fees, due from the County Clerk as determined by the audit. KRS 64.152 requires the County Clerk to settle excess fees with the fiscal court by March 15 each year.

The financial statement has been prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky and is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Under this regulatory basis of accounting, revenues and expenditures are generally recognized when cash is received or disbursed with the exception of accrual of the following items (not all-inclusive), at December 31 that may be included in the excess fees calculation:

- Interest receivable
- Collection on accounts due from others for 2010 services
- Reimbursements for 2010 activities
- Payments due other governmental entities for December tax and fee collections and payroll
- Payments due vendors for goods or services provided in 2010

The measurement focus of a fee official is upon excess fees. Remittance of excess fees is due to the County Treasurer in the subsequent year.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the County Clerk's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

ELLIOTT COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2010
(Continued)

Note 2. Employee Retirement System

The county official and employees have elected to participate in the County Employees Retirement System (CERS), pursuant to KRS 78.530 administered by the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems. This is a cost sharing, multiple employer defined benefit pension plan, which covers all eligible full-time employees and provides for retirement, disability and death benefits to plan members. Benefit contributions and provisions are established by statute.

Nonhazardous covered employees are required to contribute 5 percent of their salary to the plan. Nonhazardous covered employees who begin participation on or after September 1, 2008 are required to contribute 6 percent of their salary to the plan. The county's contribution rate for nonhazardous employees was 16.16 percent for the first six months and 16.93 percent for the last six months.

Benefits fully vest on reaching five years of service for nonhazardous employees. Aspects of benefits for nonhazardous employees include retirement after 27 years of service or age 65. Nonhazardous employees who begin participation on or after September 1, 2008 must meet the rule of 87 (members age plus years of service credit must equal 87, and the member must be a minimum of 57 years of age) or the member is age 65, with a minimum of 60 months service credit.

Historical trend information showing the CERS' progress in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due is presented in the Kentucky Retirement Systems' annual financial report. This report may be obtained by writing the Kentucky Retirement Systems, 1260 Louisville Road, Frankfort, KY 40601-6124, or by telephone at (502) 564-4646.

Note 3. Deposits

The Elliott County Clerk maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as required by KRS 66.480(1)(d). According to KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the County Clerk and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution.

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a depository institution failure, the County Clerk's deposits may not be returned. The Elliott County Clerk does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk but rather follows the requirements of KRS 41.240(4). As of December 31, 2010, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

ELLIOTT COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2010
(Continued)

Note 4. Grant

In June 2010, the County Clerk received a local records microfilming grant from the Kentucky Department for Libraries in the amount of \$19,750. The entire amount was expended in October 2010. Therefore, as of December 31, 2010, the balance in the account was \$0.

Note 5. Leases

- A. The office of the County Clerk was committed to a lease agreement with Software Management, Inc. for maintenance on the computer equipment and software the County Clerk purchased from Software Management, Inc. The maintenance lease requires a monthly payment of \$750 to be completed on August 26, 2015. The agreement will renew automatically for additional one year terms thereafter. The balance of the lease agreement was \$41,250 as of December 31, 2010.
- B. On April 29, 2008 the Office of the Former County Clerk entered into a lease agreement with Cannon Financial Services for a copier. The lease agreement required lease payments of \$223 for 60 months. No lease payments had been paid since December 2008. In June 2011, the fiscal court reached a settlement with Cannon Financial Services and the fiscal court is now the owner of the copier.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND
ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Georgia Ison, Elliott County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Shelia Blevins, Elliott County Clerk
Members of the Elliott County Fiscal Court

Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

We have audited the statement of revenues, expenditures, and excess fees - regulatory basis of the Elliott County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2010, and have issued our report thereon dated August 24, 2011. The County Clerk's financial statement is prepared in accordance with a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Elliott County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be deficiencies, significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control over financial reporting, described in the accompanying comment and recommendation as item 2010-01 that we consider to be a significant deficiency in internal control over financial reporting. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.



Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards
(Continued)

Compliance And Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Elliott County Clerk's financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2010, is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

The Elliott County Clerk's response to the finding identified in our audit is included in the accompanying comment and recommendation. We did not audit the County Clerk's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Elliott County Fiscal Court, and the Department for Local Government and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Crit Luallen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Crit Luallen
Auditor of Public Accounts

August 24, 2011

COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

ELLIOTT COUNTY
SHELIA BLEVINS, COUNTY CLERK
COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

For The Year Ended December 31, 2010

INTERNAL CONTROL - SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCY:

2010-01 The County Clerk's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

A proper segregation of duties consists of separate employees being responsible for custody of assets, recording transactions, and reconciling accounts to the records. During our review of the internal control system of the Clerk's office, we noted that the County Clerk performs all of these bookkeeping functions. She collects fees, prepares the daily checkout sheets, records amounts in the ledgers, prepares monthly bank reconciliations, and signs checks for disbursements. Since the Clerk's office only has two other full time employees, a proper segregation of duties is not possible. Since the Clerk is unable to segregate duties, compensating controls should be implemented. Compensating controls are controls that limit the severity of this control deficiency by mitigating the effects. However, they do not eliminate the control deficiency. No documented compensated controls were noted during our review of the internal control system. In order to help compensate for the lack of segregation of duties, we recommend the County Clerk share the bookkeeping functions and daily checkout responsibilities with her deputies on a rotated basis. The County Clerk could also require dual signatures on all checks for disbursements.

County Clerk's Response: Due to lack of funds to employ personnel, proper segregation of duties is not possible. The office will try to implement compensating controls to offset the lack of segregation.

